

HOW TO... Create a web document

Professional desktop-publishing tool QuarkXPress 5, which is free on your cover disc, is also great for designing interactive webpages, as Steve Haines demonstrates

It's incredibly easy to create a sophisticated document for the web using QuarkXPress, the professional desktop-publishing application. You can include interactive elements such as hyperlinks and buttons in your website without the need to use complex HTML code. We'll show you how to add some of these features to your documents.

In *Shopper 227*, we showed you how to use Quark to create a simple newsletter. You'll find a PDF of this article on the cover disc, as many of the techniques used in making a paper document can be applied to a web document, too.

You'll find the full version of QuarkXPress 5.01 on this month's cover disc. To install the software, you'll need to create a QuarkStore account to obtain a validation code from Quark. To do this, go to <http://euro.quark.com/computershopper> and complete the registration form, entering the unique serial number provided on your cover disc. Once you have submitted your registration details, you will automatically receive an email from Quark containing your personal validation code.

1 Open a new document by going to File, New, Web Document. Choose the colours for your text, background and links, making sure that your text is as legible as possible. We've chosen Black text and a Web Silver background.

2 Next, choose the width of the page – the smaller it is, the more likely it is that people will be able to view your page as you've designed it. Go to the Layout area of the New Web Document dialog box, select 800px in the

Page Width pop-up list and tick the Variable Width Page box. Enter 70% in the Width field and 300px in the Minimum field. With a variable-width page, the objects on the page will stretch when the user widens the browser window, as long as the width of the window is greater than the value in the Minimum field.

If you want a background image on your page, put a tick in the box next to Background Image and choose the file you wish to use.

3 You can now import text and images as you would with a normal document. To import text that you've already prepared, draw a text box by clicking on the Rectangle Text Box tool (the box with an A in it in the Tools palette on the left-hand side of the screen). Then click File, Get Text and choose the text. Click Open and the text will flow automatically into the box.

To import an image, click on the Rectangle Picture Box tool (the box with a cross inside it under the text box tool), draw a box and import the picture using the File, Get Picture command. See the tutorial in *Shopper 227* for more details on importing and styling text and pictures.

4 Web documents in Quark are displayed with an extra toolbox under the standard tools, which you can use to place interactive elements such as buttons on your webpage. You can use many HTML features, including hyperlinks and forms, and dynamic items such as rollovers, meta tags and image maps.

We're going to add a hyperlink to the page. Go to View, Show Hyperlinks. Highlight the text from which you want the link to work and click

on the new hyperlink button on the top left of the Hyperlinks box (it looks like two links of a chain). Type the address of the site you want to link to in the URL box. When you export your document as HTML, the link will use the formatting you chose for links in Step 1.

5 We're also going to create a 'rollover', which means that when a user rolls their mouse pointer over an image it changes to another image. Right-click on the original image and choose Create Rollover from the menu that appears. Choose the Rollover Image by browsing to its location on your hard disk. Click OK.

6 QuarkXPress makes it easy to preview an HTML page in a browser before you export it. Go to Edit, Preferences. In the Application/Web Document field on the left-hand side of the dialog box, select Browsers. Internet Explorer will appear in the list of browsers. To add another browser, click Add, navigate to the .exe file of the browser you wish to use, highlight it and click Open. To change the default browser used for viewing web documents, click in the Default column next to the name of the application. Click OK to close the Preferences box.

Then click the HTML Preview button at the bottom of the document window (it looks like a tiny globe with dotted lines coming out of it). The selected browser will open and display the document as it will appear when exported. Check that the page displays as you want and that all the interactive elements of your document are working properly. Finally, save and export the document by going to File, Export, HTML. **CS**

